



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

7:00 PM

Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

Board of Education: Beverly Washington, Brian Shirvell, Bob Peruzzotti, and Beth Gianacoplos

Permanent School Building Committee: Richard Monteiro, Gordon Lange, Rick DeMatto

3. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0012 Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2008 Standing Referral)

See 6/25/08 Committee of the Whole discussion under 2003-0177.

2003-0177 Renovations & Additions to Groton School Facilities - Phase I

Mayor Watson noted this is a follow up meeting to the joint meeting held on May 28th to update the Town Council and Board of Education on the progress of Phase I school issues.

Scott Celella and Greg Smolley of JCJ Architecture were present. Mr. Celella distributed a presentation on the status of the issues and provided an overview of what has been done. There were three major items previously discussed that needed to be addressed: the wireless systems and their functionality, the projectors and speech amplification systems, and the video furnace.

The wireless system was designed with the intent of having multiple cartfuls of laptops functioning at the same time throughout the building. The system uses wireless access points (APs) that send out signals. During design and construction, there was a lot of communication on the number of APs, the locations, and what teaching spaces required that functionality. Those spaces did not include art and music rooms. Art and music rooms were added later and APs are now being installed to finish coverage of the buildings. The APs in the gyms were placed in unsatisfactory locations which needed to be resolved. At Fitch, the challenge is the number of AP devices and how the signal is being received. The system at Fitch still needs testing and adjustment and the issues will be resolved by the start of school. Although there is currently functionality in the elementary schools, the consultant will still be doing more testing. Also, additional equipment is required in the Kolnaski art and music rooms and media center.

With regard to the projectors, the functionality of the wireless system dictated the type of projectors. One vendor provided the projectors and another vendor installed them so there were coordination issues. Those issues have been overcome at Fitch with only the labs remaining to be addressed. At the elementary schools, there are cable issues that must be resolved.

The consultant is working on enabling the video furnace at Fitch. The implementation of the system requires a certain sequencing that will take time to complete. Summer school begins July 7th so it is anticipated that the projectors and video furnace will be functional by then.

Paul Sikorski of Groton Public Schools IT department noted the video furnace works in the new portion of Fitch, but not the old part of the building or at the two elementary schools.

With regard to other minor technology issues, SMARTnet service contracts were provided at no cost in the elementary schools. GPS will have to purchase a contract for Fitch High School. Warranty information has been transmitted to Groton Public schools.

Another issues discussed at the last meeting was the greenhouse. Mr. Smolley met with staff on June 17th. It was agreed that the educational specification for the space was vague. Some suggestions will be easy to implement, but the parties need to come to an agreement regarding drainage.

In the chemistry labs, only 12 gas jets can function at one time so there will be six gas turrets per lab. The consultant is working on pricing to see if additional jets can be provided.

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, noted that "betterments" will go to the Permanent School Building Committee for a determination on whether to take the items to the Town Council for additional funding authorization. The remaining contingency at Fitch is small. Rick Norris, project manager, noted that all remaining items and available funding information will be reviewed with Groton Public Schools for prioritization.

Discussion followed on the educational specifications for the chemistry labs and Bob Bacewicz, principal at Fitch High School, noted that the expectation was that the labs would be similar to the Pfizer lab at the school. Mr. Smolley noted that designs will be done on June 30th and a cost estimate developed.

The solution to the sound system controls in the elementary school cafeteriums is using extension cords. The design called for all equipment to be located on the rollable cabinets so that it could be set up to work the way the individual schools/programs require.

The mounting of the stage lighting at Kolnaski School will be adjusted to address conflicts with the projector.

Wes Greenleaf, Director of Buildings and Grounds, distributed and reviewed his list of incomplete items. He noted the underlined items are items that Groton Public Schools feels strongly need to be addressed.

Discussion followed on the list and identifying responsibility for the items. Dr. Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools, noted that financial responsibility will fall to the Board of Education and Town Council if the items are not addressed. Mr. Greenleaf stated these projects are overdue and timing is a huge issue for Groton Public Schools.

Mr. Schneider distributed the master punch list with responsible parties noted. The Town will not know if there is extra money available for "betterments" until the contracts are closed out. Groton Public Schools must prioritize the list so that it can be brought before the Permanent School Building Committee. The Town's goal is to get the full value out of the contracts and then to identify and prioritize "betterments" and go to the Town Council for more funding.

Mr. Greenleaf stated that Groton Public Schools can not prioritize the list until they know how

much money is available.

Rick DeMatto, chairman of the Permanent School Building Committee, stated that it is important to identify what was initially included in design versus additions made later.

Beverly Washington stated that the Board of Education will prioritize their list by the Permanent School Building Committee meeting on July 17th. Rick Norris will work on identifying what was originally in the plan that has not been done.

A follow up meeting was scheduled for July 17th at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Permanent School Building Committee meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.